

THE JACOBS REPORT

GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2006

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STATEWIDE CURRICULUM PASSES HOUSE 70-31

Algebra II and Physical Ed Required

This week, the House passed HB 5606 on a bipartisan vote. This legislation would set statewide minimum requirements for high school graduation.

The House-passed version of the bill omitted a foreign language requirement, but maintained mandates for Algebra II and physical education.

53 Republicans and 17 Democrats combined for a relatively easy passage; however, the vote seemed to reflect a desire to move the process forward more than an actual endorsement of the specific legislation. Most members expect the bill to go through several changes in the Senate.

As it passed the House, HB 5606 would require students to successfully complete four credits in English Language Arts; four credits of math: Algebra, Algebra II, Geometry, and one additional course; three credits in science: Biology, Physics or Chemistry, and one additional course; three credits of social studies; one credit in health and physical education and one credit in visual and performing arts to graduate.

The bill also includes provisions that would allow students to opt for a personalized curriculum, and other built-in flexibilities.

SENATE DEMS AIM TO RESCUE OUTSOURCED WORKERS

New Legislation Protects Homes, Provides Access to Training

Senate Democrats unveiled the first in a series of initiatives designed to help Michigan citizens cope with the results of their jobs being shipped overseas and discourage further outsourcing. Michigan has been disproportionately affected by the outsourcing of American jobs, and this package will offer both financial assistance and access to training opportunities for workers who have lost their jobs.

“Outsourcing has a ripple effect that cripples entire local economies and devastates families,” said Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). “By providing emergency protections for outsourced workers, we can keep families together and kick-start economic development.”

The Senate Democrats launched their package, “Help Outsourced Workers (HOW) to Improve Michigan’s Economy” at events around the state today. Details of the package include:

- **Loan Insurance:** Create a loan protection program to help provide emergency assistance with home and car loan payments. This would allow workers to keep their homes and meet basic necessity financial obligations while they get back up on their feet.

- **Emergency Tuition Assistance:** Provide emergency tuition assistance to students whose parents have lost their jobs due to outsourcing or bankruptcy.
- **Fast Track Admission:** Offer outsourced workers a fast track into community college for outsourced workers and people with an income of 150% of the federal poverty level (roughly \$25,000 for a family of three.)
- **Job Connector:** Put in statute the Governor's MI Opportunity Partnership initiative. This will ensure that the program exists as long as it is necessary.
- **Lengthening Unemployment Assistance Eligibility:** Increase the length of time a person could receive unemployment benefits from the current maximum of 26 weeks to 39 weeks.

"When anyone loses a job, it is devastating to a family," said Sen. Jacobs. "There are bills to pay coupled with the uncertainty of finding another job. The legislation we are introducing today will help ease the stress of this transitional period, by providing emergency assistance with home and loan payments, as well as educational help for retraining.

"The solution to Michigan's economic problems is to keep jobs in Michigan."

ACCESS YOUR STATE TAX INFO

Refund Status Available On-line

Visit the Michigan Department of Treasury website to obtain information about your 2005 tax return. To ensure your privacy and security the following information is required:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Tax Year
- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) or Household Income (HHI)
- Filing Status

The site can be accessed by using the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,1607,7-121-1748_17163---,00.html

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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THE JACOBS REPORT

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For Immediate Release
February 24, 2006

Contact: Matt Levin
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Defibrillator Bill Signed By Governor

Jacobs: "This law will save lives."

Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed into law a bill that will require defibrillators in all health club facilities. The bill was unanimously approved by the Michigan Senate. The bill, PA 23, sponsored by Sen. Jacobs, will assure that facilities conspicuously display the life-saving equipment, which administers an electric charge to correct rapid and irregular heart contractions. The new law also requires health clubs to have an emergency plan in place in case of sudden medical situations.

Sen. Jacobs became aware of the need through the untimely death of a constituent. In 2002, Greg Bolak, 49, a Ferndale elementary school principal, was playing basketball at a local health facility when he suffered a heart attack. Bolak's son, Ted, had just arrived at the facility to join his father in a game. He watched his father die before emergency personnel arrived on the scene. Greg's life might have been saved had there been a defibrillator in the facility.

After Greg's death, his wife Karen, a university professor, and son Ted were shocked to learn that there were no legal requirements mandating lifesaving equipment or formal emergency plans in health facilities. That's when their efforts to require defibrillators began in earnest.

"Hopefully, the passage of this bill will assure that no other family will suffer the loss that we did," Karen Bolak said.

"Sadly, this legislation comes too late for Greg Bolak, but hopefully it will help prevent other needless deaths," Sen. Jacobs said. "His legacy is that this should never happen to another through lack of the necessary life-saving equipment."

Jacobs is currently working on a complementary bill that will require all first-responders to emergencies to carry defibrillators. Unfortunately, many ambulances and other emergency vehicles do not carry these essential life-saving devices.

TAXPAYER CONTRIBUTIONS PROTECT KIDS

Check-off on tax forms raises millions for youth programs

Taxpayers have the chance to help fight child abuse when paying their taxes by using the Michigan Children's Trust check off box on their 2005 state tax return forms.

"The money raised through the income tax check off is vital to creating a healthy environment for children in Michigan," said Senator Jacobs. "These contributions are used to protect children who become victims of abuse and neglect."

Every five minutes, a child in Michigan is a victim of child abuse or neglect, and though over 350 cases are reported daily, many more are not. Child abuse and neglect cuts across all socio-economic, geographic, ethnic, and gender lines. Research has shown us that those most at risk and vulnerable are the youngest children in our society, age 6 and under, who represent more than two-thirds of all reported victims. There is also a direct correlation between the abuse and neglect perpetrated on our youngest citizens and crime and violence in later years. In fact, most child abuse and neglect can be prevented, and for every \$1 spent on prevention, \$34 can be saved on the consequences of abuse, not to mention the human costs which are immeasurable.

A small donation brings resources to Michigan's child-abuse protection programs. Programs and services funded by these monies include respite care, parent education, pregnancy and newborn support services, support groups, local family resource counsels, public education and outreach programs in local communities. Taxpayers contribute to the Children's Trust Fund by entering their contribution amount in the space provided by the check-off box. Michigan Children's Trust Fund is the only state-wide organization dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

STOP SMOKING NOW

Local Resources are Available to Help

The Oakland County Health Division wants to help you quit smoking. For free Quit Kits, resource directories, and smoking cessation materials, please call 248-424-7172.

The Michigan Department of Community Health also provides a list of 265 regional smoking cessation programs across the state. Just look for your county to find the programs near you.

Click here for the complete list: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2939-16781--00.html>

If you have a friend or relative who lives in Michigan, but outside of Oakland County, Quit Kits can also be obtained at 1-800-537-5666.

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